

TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN

THE NATIONAL DEFENCE CAMPAIGN FOR ALL THOSE ARRESTED AS A RESULT OF THE 200,000 STRONG ANTI-POLL TAX DEMONSTRATION ON MARCH 31ST

c/o Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers, Room 205, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP. Tel: 071-833-8958 (messages)

DROP ALL CHARGES NOW!

On Thursday 21st June at 6:00am police raided 6 flats and houses in the Stamford Hill and Dalston areas of Hackney. 11 people were arrested on suspicion of offences ranging from theft of a traffic sign to violent disorder and criminal damage. The raid was carried out as part of Operation Carnaby, which was set up following the March 31st Poll Tax demonstration in London. Some of those arrested are involved in their local anti-poll tax group. The raids were carried out in a paramilitary fashion with at least 60 police officers involved, some plain clothed, others wearing bullet proof vests.

They entered premises using extreme force and intimidation. Doors were smashed down with sledgehammers and people dragged out of bed. The police also: entered with axes raised, gassed a dog, took up a floor, smashed furniture and fittings, broke telephones, left homes open, took belongings, entered through windows, threatened occupants, smashed a heating duct, took money and in one case 9 men charged screaming into a bedroom where a mother was sleeping with her 10 day old baby.

Four people were charged with violent disorder and seven were released on police bail pending possible public order offences. One person was not granted bail and is held at Wormwood Scrubs due to allegations of assault in the process of his arrest.

Due to the seriousness of the raids (ie damage to property, assault and intimidation of defendants and other occupants of the flats), reports appeared in the national newspapers and on t.v. and radio. Also, questions were raised in Parliament. Scotland Yard issued a press statement claiming the area was "a hotbed of anarchism" and claimed all those arrested were anarchists or animal rights extremists. In a radio call-in, Commander Roy Ramm (in charge of Operation Carnaby) stated "the minimum amount of force needed to deal with these type of people was used". When questioned further about allegations of doors being sledgehammered down, he stated "when you're dealing with barricades, this action proves necessary".

All the addresses were ordinary homes in Hackney and as it was 6:00am when people were still in bed stories of barricades are total fabrication. This is clearly an attempt to criminalise and intimidate a local community where there are active anti-poll tax groups. We must

not allow local communities and anti-poll tax groups to be criminalised. We will be fully supporting all those arrested from the raids.

For further information, contact Hackney Community Defence Association at [redacted] Road, London, [redacted] tel 07 [redacted] 3).

(P.S. Please discount previous press release due to factual inaccuracies)



(If you would like a copy of this photo, please phone above number.)